

Ballineaspaig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

3rd February 2008

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

No.950

Fr. Tom writes



God's Word

Readings for Sunday
10-th February

First Reading:
Gen. 2:7-9,3:1-7

Psalm 50

Second Reading
5:12-19

Gospel
Mt 4:1-11

I thought about putting a heading like "Abstinence Once Again" on this article but I was afraid that you might not read any further. But, now that I have inveigled you in, I need you to read on.

Every so often, we read reports on the abuse of alcohol all around us. An increasing number of families do not need any such reports. They know from sad experience the ravages of alcohol abuse in so many lives. As time goes on, these reports become more grim but do not lead to any decisive action. In fact, they lead to a sense of helplessness and hopelessness about the future. The pervasive attitude is that there is nothing anyone can do about the problem and maybe, there is only a little problem really. The drink companies advise us to drink sensibly !!

In a similar crisis situation, Fr. Matthew decided that there was something he could do to alleviate the serious situation and so, together with some like-minded Quaker friends, he invented the Total Abstinence Pledge. Later this promise was taken up by the Pioneer Association. In their time, both served the people well.

What about our times? What about a Total Abstinence Pledge for Lent? It would, at least, be a sign that we recognise the problem and want to do something about it. It might give hope and encouragement to those who are burdened with alcohol addiction to realise that others care. Better still, we could share the money saved with Toócaire and the poor.

How about it? Have you a better idea? Maybe, families would undertake it together. Maybe, circles of friends could take it on board.

Will anybody have the courage to raise it even for discussion?

Hopefully, yes,

Happy abstinence.

Fr. Tom

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Please take a copy of the Bulletin home
or give it to a friend or neighbour

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Notice Board

ASH WEDNESDAY - 6TH FEBRUARY

Masses: 9.00, 10.00, 7.30pm
Distribution of Ashes at each Mass.

Feast of St. Blaise - Sunday 3rd February

The traditional blessing of throats will be celebrated before and after the weekend Masses.

Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund

The annual collection will take place at all Masses next weekend.

St. Joseph's Young Priests' Society

Monthly meeting will take place next Thursday 7th February at 3.00pm in Parish Centre.

Lenten Retreat : The Living Water

Exploring how Christ quenches our spiritual thirst with the living water : the love of God which is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Led by Fr. Gerard Dunne, OP, at Ennismore, Montenotte, February 15-17th, €150 residential, €40 non-resident - meals extra. For further details please contact 4502520.

In Joyful Hope

Bishopstown Lay Dominican Chapter invites you to join them in a day of Reflection and Prayer on Saturday 9th February in St. Dominic's Retreat House, Ennismore, tel. 4502520. Registration 10am., Mass 12 noon. €27 incl. lunch, coffee break and tea at 5.30pm. For booking, contact Rose O'Luasa 4874595 or Jo Uniacke 4541331.

Journeying towards Easter

At the Sacred Heart Centre, Western Road, 7.30pm. Tuesday, Feb. 12th, 19th, 26th, March 4th and 11th. Five sessions of Bible study on texts about the "Suffering Servant(s)" of the Lord in the Book of Isaiah. There will be ample time after the talks for open discussion about the texts and related biblical questions. These sessions will be of special interest to Ministers of the Word.

'Me and the Big C'

A series of six programmes telling the personal story of how people deal with a cancer experience, begins this Monday on TV3 at 8pm. It was mostly filmed in Cork and at three Cork hospitals. It is being praised as a very honest, courageous and inspiring series.

FAS Community Employment Scheme

The Irish Wheelchair Association has vacancies for Personal Assistants. Training will be provided; main duty is to facilitate persons with physical and/or sensory disabilities. The work week is 19.5 hours and the rate of pay is €222.20 for a single adult. There is additional child allowance where applicable. For further details please contact Victoria at 4350282. Volunteer workers are also needed.

Open Day at Coláiste Stiofáin Naofa

College of Further Education, Tramore Road, Thursday 7th February, 10.00 to 4.00p.m. Over 40 full-time and part-time courses. Talk to students, meet the tutors. Information meetings every hour. Everyone welcome.

Bible Corner



A NEW COMMANDMENT

Every now and again, the criticism is voiced that our young today cannot even recite the Ten Commandments. The implication is that if they know them, they would keep them!!

A much more telling question is how many of the beatitudes, outlined in this weekend's gospel, influence how we live our daily lives. Shortly before he died, Jesus told his disciples: "A new Commandment, I leave you, love one another as I have loved you." Beginning with this weekend's gospel, Jesus teased out how this commandment of love was to be lived out in practice. These beatitudes -

- (a) have **signposts** as to how to find happiness
- (b) are **invitations** to follow a particular way of living
- (c) are **challenges** to our selfishness and pride
- (d) are a **reassurance** that we are loved by God.

All in all, they provide an inspiring life charter for Lent.

Fr. Tom



LOURDES AT HOME

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the apparitions and to link our prayers for the sick with the prayers at Lourdes, we will have Mass in the church here on

Saturday February 9th at 3.00pm

The anointing of the sick will be celebrated during Mass and Confession will be available beforehand.

It is hoped that family, friends and kind neighbours will arrange to bring our sick and housebound to the church for the celebration. Thank you.

In Sympathy

We offer our sincere sympathy to **Michael Byrne**, The Crescent, Kenley, Model Farm Road, on the death of his brother, Patrick.



LENTEN CORNER

Will you create a SACRED SPACE in your home this Lent?

All you need is a small table covered with purple cloth and a candle.

Each day light the candle and pray. This will help you to reflect on how best to celebrate Lent in your home.